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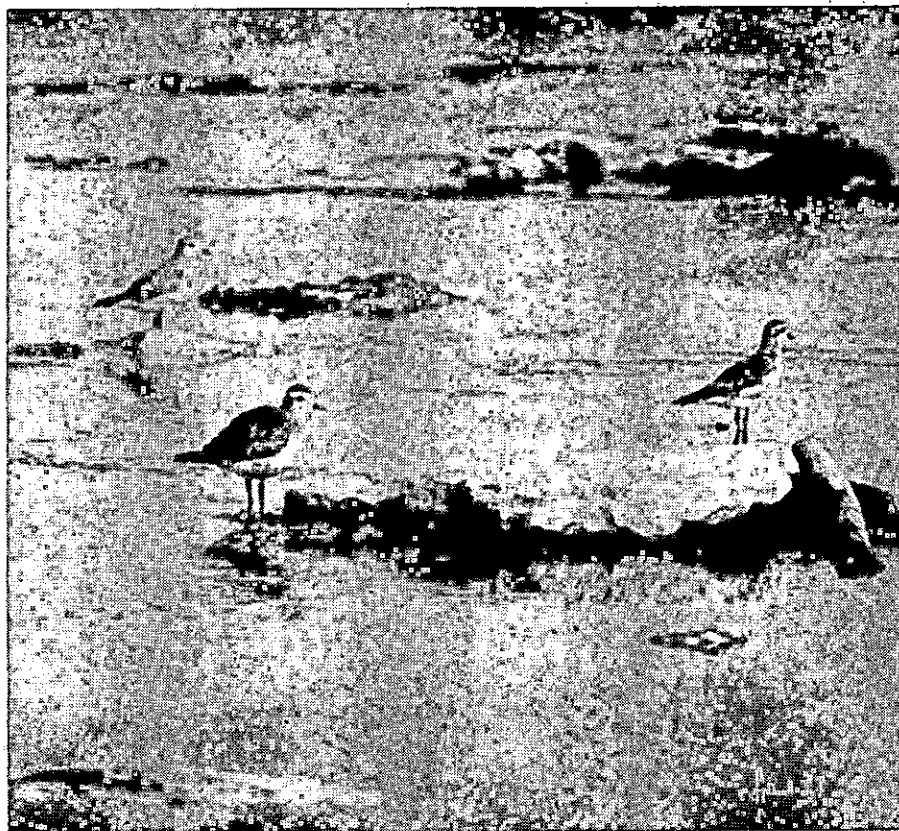
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 46

AUGUST, 1970

No. 3



*Black-bellied Plovers*

## IN THIS ISSUE

1969 KENTUCKY SUMMER BREEDING BIRD SURVEY, Burt L. Monroe, Jr. ....	43
COMMENTS ON THE 1969 KENTUCKY NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM, Anne L. Stamm .....	46
A NOTE ON LATE SHOREBIRDS IN WESTERN KENTUCKY, Clell T. Peterson .....	47
BIG SPRING LISTS, 1970 .....	48
ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT, 1970, Anne L. Stamm .....	52
IN MEMORIAM: Harvey B. Lovell, 1903-1969, Frederick W. Stamm .....	53
FIELD NOTES:	
Wood Pewee Victim of the Cowbird, Anne L. Stamm .....	55
Evening Grosbeaks at Calhoun, Jim White .....	55
White-fronted Goose at Louisville, Dennis H. Holding .....	55
White-fronted Goose in Cave Hill, Mrs. Charles A. Robertson .....	56
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	56

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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## OUR COVER

Frederick W. Stamm's photograph of Black-bellied Plovers in fall plumage, reproduced on the cover of this issue, was made from a color transparency.

The Black-bellied Plover, a very rare spring transient, was seen by many K.O.S. members on the Field Study at Bowling Green, April 18, 1970. The species, also rare but regular in fall, was observed on the late date of November 29, 1969, on the west shore of Kentucky Lake, by Dr. Clell T. Peterson (see details elsewhere in this issue).

## 1969 KENTUCKY SUMMER BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

BURT L. MONROE, JR.

This past year marked our fourth consecutive year of participation in the nationwide Summer Breeding Bird Survey conducted in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1969, thirty-six of the 46 Kentucky counts were completed; we have successfully taken between 36 and 39 in each of the four years, making Kentucky's coverage one of the best in the nation.

Briefly, and for the benefit of those to whom this count is new, the procedures used will be summarized. Kentucky (and most of the other states) are divided into one degree blocks of latitude and longitude, and four routes are selected per block, giving Kentucky its total of 46. The starting point and direction of travel (north, east, south or west) are chosen at random; once a route has been run, the identical route is maintained from year to year for comparative purposes. Counts are, by necessity, limited to roadsides and thus are biased against such habitats as steep slopes and marshes, which are generally avoided by road engineers.

Each route is run once per year in early June under restricted weather conditions (no rain and with wind less than 12 miles per hour) and must be begun exactly one-half hour before sunrise; an error of more than three minutes either way will result in loss of comparative usefulness of the count. Observers look and listen for birds at the starting point for a period of three minutes, recording all individual birds seen within one-quarter mile and all heard, regardless of distance. A single person observes; a second person usually accompanies the observer and records for him, but the second person does not in any way assist the observer in identifying, sighting, or listening. At the end of three minutes, the observer drives to Stop No. 2, exactly one-half mile, varying no more than one-tenth mile either way if stopping is not practical or possible at the precise spot; the three-minute observation procedure is repeated. The count is terminated at the 50th stop, 24.5 miles from the starting point; an average count runs about four hours in duration. If the count has been run previously, information will be provided as to location of precise stops. Slight variations from this procedure are permitted under certain unavoidable circumstances (such as up to 60 seconds may be added at each stop if excessive local noise hampers observations).

The value of these counts is in the reduction of most variables that accompany bird censuses. In fact, the only remaining variable thought to be of significance is the variation in observers. Thus, for population trend evaluations (that is, changes in bird populations from year to year), only those counts run by the same observer in successive years are compared. Thus it is important to try and set up counts so that the same observer takes the same count each year. If two people cooperate on two or more counts, one observing and one recording on each count, it is of greater value to keep the procedure the same each year. The counts do not determine actual population sizes of birds, but are merely intended to demonstrate population changes year to year.

As of this time last year, when I reported at this meeting on the summer counts, only the 1966 survey had been summarized by the Fish and

Wildlife Service. Now the 1967 and 1968 surveys are complete and will be the primary target of this report. As for the 1969 count, I can only mention a few of the more unusual birds reported along with information concerning the number of counts reporting certain species.

The most unusual birds reported in 1969 were as follows: a Little Blue Heron on the Joy count by C. L. Frazer; a Sharp-shinned Hawk on the Hodgenville count of O. K. Robbins; a Black-billed Cuckoo, also on the Hodgenville count; a Fish Crow on the Lovelaceville count by Edwin Larson; a Short-billed Marsh Wren on the Eastview count by myself; a Swainson's Warbler on the McVeigh count by O. K. Robbins; a Western Meadowlark on the Hodgenville count by Robbins (in 1968 I had a singing male on the Hudson count just to the west of the Hodgenville area); single Blue Grosbeaks on the Shiloh count by Clell Peterson and on the Cedar Grove count by M. Russell. I have omitted a few species that were most likely delayed migrants.

Also on the 1969 count, the following species were recorded on at least 34 of the 36 counts. Eight species were recorded on *all* 36 counts: Common Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, House Sparrow, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, and Field Sparrow. Seven more were listed on all but *one* count: Bobwhite, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Swallow, Robin, Starling, Yellowthroat, and Rufous-sided Towhee. Nine additional were listed on 34 counts: Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, and Chipping Sparrow. All other Kentucky species were listed on 33 or fewer counts.

Comparisons of bird population changes for the three years now known (1966-1968) are most interesting. Population changes of birds in states east of the Mississippi River (which, of course, includes Kentucky) from 1966 to 1967 show highly significant changes (to the 99% probability limits) in three species: Yellow-billed Cuckoo dropped 31.9%, Red-eyed Vireo dropped 13.9%, and Dickcissel rose 65.7%. Of these three, probably only the Red-eyed Vireo reflects an actual drastic loss of the breeding population of these birds (evidence now indicates it might be due to persistent pesticides). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo loss was apparently due to a much delayed return to eastern nesting grounds of that species, since 1968 levels returned to the former 1966 high. The Dickcissel is a periodic cyclic species, peaking every 4-6 years; 1967 was such a peak year. The species declined drastically in 1968, as expected.

Three other species showed significant population changes (95% probability limits) from 1966 to 1967: Mourning Doves dropped 10.7%, Robins were up 5.4%, and Cardinals were up 10.3%. Many other species showed definite rises or falls in population levels, but the sample sizes were too small to indicate confidence limits of 95% or higher and may have been due solely to sampling error.

Comparisons from 1967 to 1968 showed highly significant changes (99% probability) in one species only, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, with a rise of 39%, placing the level just about where it was in 1966. Three other species exhibited significant changes (95%): Red-tailed Hawks were up 82%, Dickcissels were down 36%, and Goldfinches were up 19%. I suspect the Red-tailed Hawk figure is not a true representation of a population change since the counts are conducted from before dawn to around 9 a.m., a time

too early to catch most of the flying birds of prey and thus biased against them. The Dickcissels have already been discussed. The Goldfinches probably reflect a slight population increase, as did the Cardinals the year before. I wouldn't be surprised to see continuing increases in the seedeaters as the insect-eaters continue to suffer from pesticide effects.

In a region of the central United States and southern Canada comprising 22 states and provinces from Manitoba and Ontario south to Texas and Alabama, you might be interested in knowing which species of birds recorded higher numbers of individuals per count in Kentucky than in any of the other 21 states and provinces. In the following list, numbers represent average number of birds per count in Kentucky, followed by average numbers per count in other states:

*Green Heron*, 2, tied in 1967 with Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Ontario; *Sparrow Hawk*, 2, tied in 1968 with Kansas and Minnesota; *Pileated Woodpecker*, 2, tied in 1968 with Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, and Tennessee; *Red-bellied Woodpecker*, 9, was second only to Alabama's 10 in 1967, also in 1968 with 7 was second again to Alabama's 9; *Downy Woodpecker*, 4 in both years, led all other states and provinces in the region; *Eastern Phoebe*, 4 in both years, tied with Ontario in 1967, led all in 1968; *Acadian Flycatcher*, 3 in 1967 led all; *Eastern Wood Pewee*, 9 in 1967 and 7 in 1968, led all both years; *Barn Swallow*, 28 in 1968 second only to Missouri's 33; *Common Crow*, 40 in 1967 second only to Ontario's 60, 39 in 1968 led all; *Tufted Titmouse*, 16 in 1967 and 13 in 1968, led all; *Brown Thrasher*, 8 in 1967 led all, 7 in 1968 second only to Wisconsin's 8; as in all previous years, Kentucky led all with *Bluebirds* by a whopping margin, 14 each year compared to the next nearest state's 10; *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*, 4 in 1968 led all; *Yellow-breasted Chat*, 21 in 1967 second to Alabama's 24, 22 in 1968 led all; *American Redstart*, 2 in 1967 tied with Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan; *Eastern Meadowlark*, 64 in 1967 and 67 in 1968, led all by large margin, next nearest with 55 in 1967 and 59 in 1968; *Common Grackle*, with 150 in 1967 and 164 in 1968 led all by large margin, in fact, only Illinois recorded more than 100 per count with 138 in 1967 and 121 in 1968; *Scarlet Tanager*, 2 in 1968 tied with Wisconsin; *Indigo Bunting*, 60 in 1967 and 53 in 1968 led all, next nearest Tennessee with 44 and 41 respectively; *Field Sparrow*, 39 in 1967 and 34 in 1968, led all with nearest rival's 23 and 22 in respective years.

Thus Kentucky, in a central location of a region containing 22 states and provinces both north and south, led (or tied for the lead) in number of individuals per count for 15 species in 1967 and 16 species in 1968, a truly remarkable total; we really have a fine birding state for population densities of breeding birds.

In closing I would like to recognize those faithful birders who, as observers, made it possible to take the 36 counts last year. My thanks go out to Edwin Larson, Kenneth Leggett, M. Russell, O. K. Robbins, Rufus Reed, A. L. Whitt, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Clell Peterson, E. Schroeder, J. W. Kemper, Joe Croft, Russell Starr, A. L. Powell, C. Gatlin, C. L. Frazer, Anne L. Stamm, Howard P. Jones, and A. M. Reece.

—Biology Department, University of Louisville 40208.

(Read at K.O.S. 47th Annual Spring Meeting, April 17, 1970, Bowling Green, Kentucky.)

## COMMENTS ON THE 1969 KENTUCKY NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM

ANNE L. STAMM

This past summer (1969) marked the fifth consecutive year the Kentucky Ornithological Society participated in the nationwide North American Nest-Record Card Program in cooperation with the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. In 1969, three hundred and eighty-nine nest-cards for 50 species of birds were completed; fifteen of these cards contained dated breeding observations on two colonial-nesting species—the Bank (*Riparia riparia*) and Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*); thus the 389 cards gave us a grand total of 2,139 nests. In addition, three cards totaling 635 nests of the Cliff Swallow were recorded in Tennessee by Clell Peterson. Also, two instances of Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitism were noted, by James W. Hancock, in nests of the Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) and the Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*).

Because we have a number of new members, the method used and the principal aim of the project will be outlined. Briefly, the study is designed to collect specific data on bird reproduction in a form convenient for statistical analysis. Participating members record the contents of each nest on a separate card and make dated notations on the same card for each subsequent visit to the nest. As in the past, while one observation of a nest will be valuable, and should be recorded, additional visits or observations over a period of days or weeks are encouraged, and will increase the worth of the nest record. Our Society has Regional Centers to handle the distribution and subsequent collection of nest-record cards.

The card we will be using this year is slightly changed from last year's and is designed specifically for rapid transfer of data to a punch card. Cornell has obtained funds to get the data punched and the necessary program written.

These data, once processed at Cornell, will be available to anyone wishing to do research in various areas of avian biology. The Laboratory also hopes that the program will "play a key role in the study of man's modification of his environment, through drainage, urbanization, and the use of pesticides." Since we (K.O.S.) keep duplicate copies of the records sent to Cornell, our Society is accumulating a large amount of data on the breeding biology of Kentucky birds.

The nests recorded in 1969 were made in 18 counties. The Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) and the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) nests, found by William Brown, are the first of these species to be recorded on the five-year study. The Cliff Swallow ranked first in the greatest number of nests reported as it did in 1968. This may be surprising to some since in recent years the species was thought to be very rare in summer and only one breeding colony was known. Dr. Clell T. Peterson recently found many colonies of this species in three counties: Livingston, Marshall, and Trigg (see Peterson, *Ky. Warbler*, 46:7-9, 1970). The Bank Swallow ranked second in nest numbers. The Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) rated third, with 74 nests.

Other species with a relatively large number of nests reported for the 1969 nesting season included the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), 46; Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), each 37; Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) and Cardinal (*Richmondia*

*cardinalis*), each 21; Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), 16. For all other species nine or fewer nests were recorded.

Perhaps the most unusual single nest recorded was that of an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), found on April 19 in Lyon County, by Clell Peterson and Ray Nall. This nest, abandoned sometime before May 20, is only the third reported in Kentucky since Audubon.

Nests of some of the common birds are also of interest. For example, we still have little precise information on the nesting of the Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*); nests of each of these were recorded this year. It is interesting that in the five-year period of this program we collected more data for the last-named species than has heretofore been known.

Although Dr. Peterson reported the largest number of nests—some 1600 of the Cliff Swallow—Floyd Carpenter reported the largest number of the Bank Swallows—100-150. James W. and Kathryn Hancock submitted 108 nests of 22 species and Lee Nelson reported 82 cards of nine species, including many of the Mourning Dove. Frederick and Anne L. Stamm reported largely Barn Swallows and recorded 62 nests of 15 species. Mabel Slack and Howard Jones were next in the number of records with 41 and 36 respectively. Others reporting nests for 1969 included William Brown, Jim Durrell, Edward Larson, Dorothea McConnell, and Albert Powell.

Although fewer members participated than in previous years, we had the largest number of nests submitted. I think it is of interest that several of our group were cited in the *Laboratory of Ornithology News Letter* in 1966 and 1967 for being major contributors.

During the years 1965 through 1969, 64 participants have furnished breeding information on over 4,400 nests of 100 species. These records come from 55 counties in Kentucky. In addition to the Tennessee nest records mentioned previously, our members have also submitted a number of records from other states.

We cannot expect all members to assist each year since K.O.S. has a number of projects underway. However, here is a program in which every person seriously interested in birds can participate. If you have some time and wish to assist, please contact Howard P. Jones, or me, and we will furnish you with cards and instructions.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

(This paper given at K.O.S. 47th Annual Spring Meeting, April 17, 1970, Bowling Green.)

## A NOTE ON LATE SHOREBIRDS IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

CLELL T. PETERSON

Shorebirds are generally uncommon along the shores of Kentucky Lake and presumably of Barkley Lake too, although observations on this lake are neither frequent nor regular enough wholly to support the opinion. The chief reason, doubtless, for the scarcity of shorebirds is that at the times of migration, the lake levels tend to be high and few mud and sandflats are exposed. Because we seldom encounter shorebirds either in numbers or variety, I was somewhat skeptical when a friend, Mike Miller, told me



of a flock of mixed shorebirds that he found regularly in the vicinity of his duckblind on the west shore of Kentucky Lake at about mile 58, just about a mile north of the Bailey Hollow inlet, or about five miles south of Blood River. He was certain that he had identified Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*) and Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*). To heighten my skepticism, he said that a similar flock had been in the same area the previous year from late fall until he had ceased hunting.

On November 23, 1969, I went with Mike to the area he told me of and verified the fact that there was indeed a flock of mixed shorebirds that seemed to be attracted to a long mudflat, or series of mudflats, of about half a mile in length. When frightened from one part of the shore, they moved back or forth without going any great distance. The whole flock consisted of not less than sixty birds; approximately half were Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*), about a third were Semipalmated Sandpipers, and there were several individuals each of Baird's Sandpipers (*Erolia bairdii*) (3 or 4), Dunlins (*Erolia alpina*) (at least 2), Black-bellied Plovers (at least 1, perhaps 2). Approximately twelve Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*) shared the mudflat, sometimes flying and running with the other birds and sometimes wandering about in a more individual fashion. The Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlins also seemed to be less integrated into the flock, occasionally flying with it when disturbed, but not associating with the others while running about the mudflat.

On November 26, I found the same flock in the same place. On November 29 I visited the area with Edwin Larson and found the flock but could not identify the Baird's Sandpipers. I was unable to return until December 13, at which time I was unhappy to discover that the flock was smaller and more dispersed. I was unable to find a Black-bellied Plover, so that the last certain date for that species became November 29. On this occasion I studied a pair of Dunlins carefully and at length as they preened themselves in the shallow water at the edge of the flat.

Because of Christmas counts, bad weather, and other duties, I was unable to get back to the area until January 3, when Mike Miller and I returned together. The lake was very high, and the mudflat was wholly covered. The shorebirds seemed to be entirely gone, but after searching some of the small islands as much as a quarter of a mile from shore with a spotting scope, I discovered 2 Killdeers and one small sandpiper. Although the light was extremely good, a heat haze over the water made observation difficult. Comparison with a Killdeer indicated that the sandpiper was either a Least or Semipalmated, but because of the haze I could not make a further distinction.

—Murray State University, Murray 42071.

### BIG SPRING LISTS, 1970

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (Approximately same area as covered in previous spring counts).—May 1 (5:00 p.m.) to May 2 (3:00 p.m.). Severe rains May 1, clearing May 2; wind gusty May 1, SW, 4-7 m.p.h. May 2; temperature 48° to 65°. Total, 90 species.

Both lakes were very high, Kentucky Lake at its highest in 20 years. Streams were full and lowlands flooded. It is unlikely that this affected the count, but a heavy rain intermittently on Friday, not stopping until late that night, may have been a factor.

The Osprey attempting to nest on the power pylon in New Honker Lake, reported on previous spring counts, appeared the week of April 6. I saw it on Saturday, April 11, but it was not reported in the nest area after that. Ospreys continue to be reported from various parts of Kentucky and Barkley Lakes. In addition to the geese in the area managed for their nesting, a pair of Canada Geese nested on a mud island on Hematite Lake and hatched a brood of 5 goslings about April 26. These are the geese, although the goslings stayed out of sight, reported in this count.

Additional species within a week of the count day include Turkey, Bewick's Wren (a rarity), Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, and Louisiana Waterthrush.—Willard Gray, Clell T. Peterson (compiler).

**HENDERSON** (City and suburban area of Henderson including Audubon State Park)—May 3; clear and cool. This is the first time we have recorded the Cattle Egret on a Spring Count. Mr. and Mrs. Turner Nearing, Decatur, Illinois, were helpful observers. The park trip was led by King Benson. "About 35" observers participated (no names listed). Total species, 120.—W. P. Rhoads.

**MADISONVILLE** (W. W. Hancock Farm, Elk Creek, Highway 892, Brown Road, Lake Pewee, Municipal Park, and Loch Mary).—May 4; 4:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 9:00-9:30 p.m. Clear in a.m. to partly cloudy by mid-afternoon; light SW wind; temp. 40° to 78°. Total, 85 species. One observer. Species observed during the count week included Green Heron, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Magnolia Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow.—James W. Hancock.

**BOWLING GREEN** (Bowling Green area; temporary lakes, Grider's Lake, Sally's Rock area).—April 18-19; 10 hours in the field on April 18, until noon on April 19. Mostly sunny; temperature ranging from 65 to 75 degrees. Some 50 K.O.S. members and guests were on one or more of the outings. Total, 113 species. The Bald Eagle was of special interest. Nine species of shorebirds were recorded, including eight to ten Black-bellied Plover feeding in a wet meadow; some were in spring plumage.—Herbert E. Shadowen (compiler).

**MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK** (Selective coverage of park area).—May 3; clear and cold. Total species, 92. Eleven observers in two parties: Mrs. George Ellis, Jr., Mrs. James Gillenwater (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Gillie Hyde, Dwight Russell, Kelly Russell, Marvin Russell, Herbert Shadowen, Jeff Shadowen, Russell Starr, Ronald Ward.

**LOUISVILLE** (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, Caperton's Swamp, woodlands, meadows, and parts of Goshen).—May 10; all day; clear to cloudy, light showers; temperature 61° to 70°. Total, 142 species. Variety of birds this year, especially among shorebirds and warblers, was excellent; 30 species of warblers is regarded as exceptionally good. Numbers of individuals, especially among warblers, seemed to be down this year, with most species being found with difficulty. The best bird recorded was the White-fronted Goose, an individual that has been present for over a month.—Virginia Calvert, Joseph E. Croft, Dennis Holding, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Sarah Kelly, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., James C. Pasikowski, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Judy Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mrs. A. G. Susie, and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wood.

## BIG SPRING LISTS, 1970

Species recorded near the time of the count but not on count day are indicated with an asterisk (\*); LBL—Land Between the Lakes, H—Henderson, M—Madisonville, BG—Bowling Green, MC—Mammoth Cave National Park, L—Louisville.

- Pied-billed Grebe—H, BG  
 Green Heron—LBL, M\*, BG, MC, L  
 Little Blue Heron—H, BG  
 Cattle Egret—H  
 Black-crowned Night Heron—BG, L  
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron—M, L  
 Canada Goose—LBL  
 White-fronted Goose—L  
 Mallard—LBL, BG, L  
 Black Duck—L  
 Green-winged Teal—BG  
 Blue-winged Teal—LBL, H, BG, L  
 American Widgeon—BG, L  
 Shoveler—BG, L  
 Wood Duck—H, BG, L  
 Ring-necked Duck—BG  
 Lesser Scaup—LBL, M, BG, L  
 Bufflehead—M  
 Ruddy Duck—BG  
 Turkey Vulture—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Black Vulture—BG, L  
 Cooper's Hawk—H  
 Red-tailed Hawk—LBL, H, BG, MC, L  
 Red-shouldered Hawk—LBL, M, BG, MC  
 Broad-winged Hawk—M, BG, MC  
 Bald Eagle—BG  
 Marsh Hawk—BG  
 Sparrow Hawk—H, BG, L  
 Bobwhite—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Turkey—LBL\*  
 Virginia Rail—L  
 Sora—L  
 American Coot—LBL, H, BG, L  
 Semipalmated Plover—L  
 Killdeer—LBL, H, BG, L  
 American Golden Plover—BG  
 Black-bellied Plover—BG, L  
 American Woodcock—H, L  
 Common Snipe—BG  
 Spotted Sandpiper—L  
 Solitary Sandpiper—M, BG, L  
 Greater Yellowlegs—H, BG, L  
 Lesser Yellowlegs—H, BG, L  
 Pectoral Sandpiper—BG  
 Least Sandpiper—BG, L  
 Ring-billed Gull—L  
 Forster's Tern—L  
 Common Tern—LBL, L  
 Black Tern—L  
 Mourning Dove—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Black-billed Cuckoo—H  
 Barn Owl—H  
 Screech Owl—H  
 Great Horned Owl—H  
 Barred Owl—LBL, H, MC, L  
 Chuck-will's-widow—LBL, M, L  
 Whip-poor-will—LBL, H, M, BG, L  
 Common Nighthawk—H, M, L  
 Chimney Swift—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird—H, M\*, MC, L  
 Belted Kingfisher—LBL, H, M, BG, MC  
 Yellow-shafted Flicker—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Pileated Woodpecker—LBL, H, BG, MC, L  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Red-headed Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, BG, L  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—H, BG  
 Hairy Woodpecker—H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Downy Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Eastern Kingbird—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Great-crested Flycatcher—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Eastern Phoebe—LBL, H, M\*, BG, MC, L  
 Acadian Flycatcher—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Traill's Flycatcher—LBL, H, L  
 Least Flycatcher—H, M, L  
 Eastern Wood Pewee—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher—L

- Horned Lark—H, M, BG, L  
 Tree Swallow—LBL, BG, L  
 Bank Swallow—BG, L  
 Rough-winged Swallow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L  
 Barn Swallow—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Cliff Swallow—LBL, BG  
 Purple Martin—LBL, H, M, BG, L  
 Blue Jay—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Common Crow—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Carolina Chickadee—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Tufted Titmouse—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 White-breasted Nuthatch—LBL, H, BG, MC, L  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch—BG, MC  
 House Wren—H, M, L  
 Bewick's Wren—LBL\*, MC  
 Carolina Wren—LBL, H, M, BG, L  
 Mockingbird—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Catbird—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Brown Thrasher—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Robin—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Wood Thrush—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Hermit Thrush—H, MC  
 Swainson's Thrush—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush—LBL\*, H, M, MC, L  
 Veery—LBL\*, H, MC, L  
 Eastern Bluebird—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet—H, M\*, BG  
 Water Pipit—BG  
 Cedar Waxwing—H, BG, MC, L  
 Loggerhead Shrike—LBL, H, M, BG, L  
 Starling—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 White-eyed Vireo—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Yellow-throated Vireo—LBL, M, BG, MC, L  
 Red-eyed Vireo—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Philadelphia Vireo—BG, L  
 Warbling Vireo—H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Black-and-white Warbler—LBL, H, MC, L  
 Prothonotary Warbler—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Worm-eating Warbler—LBL, H, L  
 Blue-winged Warbler—LBL, BG, MC
- Tennessee Warbler—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Orange-crowned Warbler—H  
 Nashville Warbler—H, M, L  
 Parula Warbler—H, BG, L  
 Yellow Warbler—H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Magnolia Warbler—H, M\*, L  
 Cape May Warbler—H, M, L  
 Myrtle Warbler—H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Black-throated Green Warbler—H, M, MC, L  
 Cerulean Warbler—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Blackburnian Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Yellow-throated Warbler—H, M, BG, L  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler—H, M, L  
 Bay-breasted Warbler—MC, L  
 Blackpoll Warbler—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Pine Warbler—L  
 Prairie Warbler—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Palm Warbler—H, M, BG, L  
 Ovenbird—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Northern Waterthrush—LBL, M, BG, MC, L  
 Louisiana Waterthrush—LBL\*, H, BG, MC, L  
 Kentucky Warbler—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Mourning Warbler—L  
 Yellowthroat—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Yellow-breasted Chat—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Hooded Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Wilson's Warbler—MC  
 Canada Warbler—L  
 American Redstart—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 House Sparrow—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Bobolink—H, BG, L  
 Eastern Meadowlark—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Red-winged Blackbird—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Orchard Oriole—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Baltimore Oriole—LBL, H, MC, L  
 Rusty Blackbird—BG, L  
 Brewer's Blackbird—BG  
 Common Grackle—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Brown-headed Cowbird—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L  
 Scarlet Tanager—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Summer Tanager—LBL, H, M, MC, L

Cardinal—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L	Grasshopper Sparrow—H, BG, L
Rose-breasted Grosbeak—LBL, H, M, MC, L	Slate-colored Junco—H, BG
Blue Grosbeak—MC	Tree Sparrow—MC
Indigo Bunting—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L	Chipping Sparrow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Dickcissel—H, L	Field Sparrow—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L
Purple Finch—LBL, BG, MC	White-crowned Sparrow—LBL, H, M*, BG, MC, L
Pine Siskin—H, L	White-throated Sparrow—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L
American Goldfinch—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L	Lincoln's Sparrow—L
Rufous-sided Towhee—LBL, H, M, BG, MC, L	Swamp Sparrow—M, BG, L
Savannah Sparrow—LBL, BG, L	Song Sparrow—H, M, BG, L

## ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT, 1970

COMPILED BY ANNE L. STAMM

On February 21, 1970, the Kentucky Ornithological Society marked its tenth consecutive year of participation in the One-Day Bald Eagle Count conducted in cooperation with the Mississippi River Winter Bald Eagle Survey. Surprisingly enough we had our best count—70 Bald Eagles (22 adults, 47 immatures, 1 unclassified) and one adult Golden Eagle. There are several reasons for the favorable count: (1) The day was ideal—clear and bright, with the temperature ranging from 19 to 54 degrees in most parts of the state. (2) The good weather permitted better coverage. Members were assigned to all the major bodies of water in Kentucky. However, in some cases, we regret to say, the specific assignments could not be carried out; otherwise we would have had additional eagles. Below is a breakdown by territories:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Immature</i>	<i>Unclassified</i>
Land Between the Lakes .....	9	34	
Ballard Waterfowl Management Area .....	2	2	
Marion Dam #50 .....	2	2	
Lake Pewee .....	0	0	
Henderson			
(Downstream from Dam #49 and including			
20 miles up Tradewater River) .....	6	7	
Barren River Reservoir .....	0	0	
Ohio River (Otter Creek-Rock Haven Area) .....	2	1	
Ohio River (New Albany to 5 miles below			
Leavenworth, Indiana) .....	1	1	1
Kentucky, 1970 totals .....	22	47	1

All possible duplications were screened. Also, Russell Starr mentioned that competent observers at the Barren River Reservoir had seen three eagles throughout the winter (2 adults, 1 immature), but his party did not find them on the day of the survey.

K.O.S. members were assisted by personnel from the Fish & Wildlife Service and T.V.A. Observers included the following: Helen Abell, Robert Bolds, Floyd Carpenter, Larry Doyle, Joe Tom Erwin, Chastain Frazer, Jim Frazer, Mrs. James E. Gillenwater, Dennis Holding, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur

Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Mathes, Mike Miller, Jim Myatt, Ray Nall, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, Evelyn Schneider, Scott Seiber, Lawrence Smith, Robert Smith, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr, Paul Sturm, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Stotz and children, Bill Wells, Helen Wood (Mrs. Charles F.), Hal Wolford, and Wilson Woolley.

According to the Regional Survey Chairman, Elton Fawks, a total of 829 Bald Eagles (543 adults, 254 immatures, 32 not aged) were sighted on the February 1970 One-Day Count. The area covered included most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis as well as most of the Illinois River, and parts of the Ohio.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.



## In Memoriam

HARVEY BULFINCH  
LOVELL

1903-1969

The death of Harvey Bulfinch Lovell on November 23, 1969, ended a distinguished career in the field of science. He had been professor of biology at the University of Louisville and a well-known Kentucky writer on birds and plant lore. He was born on June 9, 1903, in Waldoboro, Maine, and was the son of John Harvey Lovell and Lottie Magune Lovell. He was a descendant of the Bulfinch family, prominent in the history of New England.

He was graduated cum laude from Bowdoin College in 1924, with high honors in biology. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at his alma mater, and received both his master's degree and doctorate from Harvard University.

He came to the University of Louisville in the fall of 1929 as an assistant professor of biology, and was later promoted to the status of full

professor. Prior to 1929 he had been a student assistant to professors at Bowdoin College and a teaching fellow at Harvard.

In ornithological circles he was known through his writings and lectures. He published his first paper on Kentucky birds in 1939, this being followed by more than 50 articles on the subject. Among the more important ornithological contributions are the accounts of the breeding of the Starling, Horned Lark, and Pine Warbler, the breeding birds of the Black Mountain in Harlan County, and the Otter Creek park area in Meade County. Dr. Robert M. Mengel in his *Birds of Kentucky* (1965) stated very aptly that "All we know of the nesting of certain species in Kentucky is due to his (Lovell's) efforts." He was also an authority on honey plants and pollination. His publications include a manual on honey plants, a text book on zoology, and a booklet, *Let's Talk about Honey Plants*.

He made frequent trips throughout Kentucky in an effort to learn more about the birds in the state. He also traveled to many parts of the United States for the same purpose—bird study. He was a popular lecturer at numerous garden clubs, schools, etc. He had a strong sense of responsibility toward the host of people with even a slight interest in birds and always had a friendly word of encouragement.

He served as president of the Kentucky Ornithological Society from 1941 to 1944 and as editor of its journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, from 1946 through 1953. He was also assistant editor for "Notes on Ornithologists" from 1957 to 1963, and served on the Editorial Advisory Board from 1964 until his death. He served as president of the Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, in 1940-41 and from 1954-1955. In 1954 he was the recipient of the Beckham Bird Club Award for "Constructive Contribution to Kentucky Ornithology."

He belonged to many national societies in the field of natural history, among them the American Ornithologists' Union, the Wilson Ornithological Society, Inland Bird Banding Association, and the American Ecological Society.

On November 25, 1933, he married the former Ethel Weeter of Louisville. For many years a biology teacher at Durrett High School, she followed him in death in January of 1970.

A son, John Harvey Lovell II, of Towson, Maryland, a commercial pilot for Pan American Airways, and a daughter, Mrs. John Irvin, of Warren, Pennsylvania, survive him.

Lovell was stricken with a brain lesion in the fall of 1959 that left his health somewhat impaired. However, he managed to attend meetings and go afield with friends whenever the opportunity presented itself.

It was my privilege to be closely associated with Dr. Lovell for more than 30 years at the University of Louisville, and during this time, I do not recall his offering an unkind remark about anyone. He was honest and true to his beliefs and a person of the highest integrity. We were on many field trips together and he freely shared his knowledge of birds and plant life. He was a perfect companion—helpful, interesting, and humorous.

Dr. Lovell was an excellent teacher and will be remembered by many students, faculty, and administrative staff. However, his interest in teaching went far beyond the classroom, as his many friends will attest. He had a great desire to share and impart his knowledge to all who knew him and thereby enriched their lives. We have all lost a good friend, a scholar, and counselor.

—Frederick W. Stamm

## FIELD NOTES

### WOOD PEWEE VICTIM OF THE COWBIRD

On July 20, 1970, during a morning walk in Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County, with Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell and my husband, the latter called our attention to a young bird sitting on a limb being fed by an adult bird. Immediately, we noticed the young fledgling was a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and the adult feeding the bird was a Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*). This parasitic relationship appeared odd as we watched the slender-shaped flycatcher, with its thin pointed bill, in comparison to the stockily built young cowbird, with its conical bill. In all the years I have been in the field studying birds, I have never witnessed parasitism of the Wood Pewee. Although Herbert Friedman in his publication on *The Cowbird* says the species is "A not uncommon victim of the Cowbird," we do not have any previous record of parasitism of the Wood Pewee in the Kentucky ornithological literature.—ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40205.

### EVENING GROSBEAKS AT CALHOUN

On April 19, 1970, in Calhoun, McLean County, my neighbor called and asked me to identify some "yellow birds with white bills" at her feeder. The birds were feeding on sunflower seeds and fed with a few Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) and a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). I identified the strange visitors as Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*). The next day, at the same place, I saw them again; there were 13 birds: five male and eight female. They were not seen on subsequent visits.—JIM WHITE, Box 154, Calhoun 42327.

(Editor's note: Although Evening Grosbeaks appeared again, in small numbers, during the 1969-70 season in various parts of the state including western Kentucky, we have had no previous record for McLean County.)

### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE AT LOUISVILLE

As we returned from a shopping trip on Saturday, March 14, 1970; hopefully scanning the Ohio from River Road in Louisville, we came upon an unusual transient. My wife drew my attention to a large, unfamiliar bird in the Carrie Gaulbert Cox Park, Jefferson County, and we turned in and drove back to investigate what proved to be a White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). We were able to approach to a distance of about 20 yards (subsequently paced out), making observations by eye and with binoculars in detail which left no doubt as to identification. The bird remained feeding on the grass opposite the boat launching while repeated comparisons were made with our field guide.

The white facial band, together with the orange legs, were unmistakable; the dark belly markings formed separate blotches at the chest, tending to merge towards the rear. Absence of an eye ring from our description later ruled out the remote possibility of a Lesser White-fronted (*A. erythropus*). Apparently the species has never previously been recorded in the area.—DENNIS H. HOLDING, 101 Nob Hill Lane, Louisville 40206.



### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE IN CAVE HILL

On Monday, April 20, 1970, Virginia Calvert and I were at Cave Hill Cemetery when Mr. Ira Mitchell, the Superintendent, whom we had just passed, came over in a state of considerable excitement. He had just seen a strange goose near the large duck-pond, and wondered if we might be



White-fronted Goose

(Photo by Mrs. Charles A. Robertson)

able to help him identify it. After looking around for a short time, we found the goose on the hilly side of the pond, at the end closest to the quarry. Fortunately, we had Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* with us, and were able to positively identify the bird as a White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). It was occasionally grazing with a couple of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) but was more or less on its own. If crowded too closely by people, the goose would fly away from the intruders. Its flight was extremely strong and steady and it was a very healthy looking bird. The goose was still at the Cemetery as late as May 17.—MRS. CHARLES A. ROBERTSON, No. 3 River Hill Road, Louisville 40207.

(Editor's note: It is quite possible that the goose observed on March 14 by Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Holding was the same bird that frequented the Cave Hill Cemetery for approximately a month and subsequently was seen by many members of the Louisville Chapter of K.O.S.)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### OUR FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society will meet at Cumberland Falls State Park on October 2-4, 1970. The 47th Annual Meeting is scheduled at a time when migrating birds should be at their peak, and the woodland areas in brilliant colors. Announcements with full details of program, reservation information, etc., will be mailed well in advance. REMEMBER THE DATES!